

AUBURN VALLEY CATTLE COMPANY

Michael B. Watson
11400 Cramer Road
Auburn, Ca. 95602
530-823-2626

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
CALFED Bay/Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

August 15, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

I am a Placer County rancher. My family, my friends and my partners in the agricultural community are concerned about the future of our land and particularly our water resources. I am specifically interested in your Cal/Fed EIS/EIR released July 21. It is much too complex to understand and I would like to request that you consider holding hearings to explain the impact the Cal/Fed program will have on us. Who actually knows what the impact will be? We would like to speak to the people who feel that "unavoidable farmland losses" as part of the Cal/Fed program are an adequate replacement for food on the table.

Would it also be possible to explain why, due to the Cal/Fed program, we should "double up" on wildlife and natural plant habitat at the expense of providing an independent source of feeding our public? I am pro-wildlife, belong to a wildlife rescue group and actively participate in saving, protecting and promoting wildlife in our area. With the generous amount of land the government owns in California, it would seem that taking additional valuable farmland for the sole purpose of wildlife habitat could be considered a typical government snafu.

Mr. Ritchie, all we are asking is that if the document is as we understand it now, please listen to the thousands in the agricultural community and try to do the following:

- 1) lengthen the period for viewing and commenting on the final CalFed EIS/EIR released July 21.
- 2) hold public hearings to explain the program
- 3) don't rush into a plan that has such a huge impact on the future of agriculture in California

Sincerely,



Michael B. Watson

cc: / Gary Sack
Governor Davis
John Doolittle
Diane Feinstein
Tim Leslie
Barbara Boxer
Rico Oller